



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: May 1, 2013

Members in Attendance: Paul Desrosiers, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude and Jon Schock

Others in Attendance: Gregory Schultz, Esq., RI Attorney General's Office
Marisa Desautel, Esq. and Traci Pena, RIDEM

The first order of business was the review of the draft April 3, 2013 minutes.

After review, Mr. McLynch motioned to approve the open minutes with minor edits. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock abstained as they were not present at the April 2013 meeting.

The next topic were the draft Rules and Regulations for Wastewater Treatment Facility Operators.

While the Governor's office is requiring State agencies to adhere to new rules for new or updates to Regulations, DEM has been granted approval to move forward. A fiscal notice and an impact analysis are needed and Mr. Patenaude is working with them.

Mr. Patenaude scheduled a workshop for the state's operators/superintendents on April 23rd at the Warwick WWTF. The workshop was very successful and well attended. Those present at the workshop expressed that they are eager to move forward with the proposed draft Regulations. Mr. Patenaude wondered if all courses should be approved by the Board during regularly scheduled meetings. He also hoped that trainers would get pre-approval from the Board and make it part of their literature stating as such. Mr. Schock would like to see this process done administratively as it would speed up the process. Ms. Forgue offered that it might be a good idea to have pre-approved lists from different organizations such as NEWEEA or NEWIPCC.

Mr. Kurdziel thought if courses are restricted there may be duplicative courses, which at times may be the only instruction offered. He also wondered what would happen if during random audit inaccurate reportings were revealed.

Mr. Patenaude also thought a course evaluation form is needed. Mr. Schock noted that it could be submitted with renewal package. Mr. Schock also thought if the Board does not approve the course the Board should allow a window of opportunity to complete the Tier requirements.

As discussed the Tier systems are intended to recognize those operator who go above and beyond and take courses beyond their daily job duties and not as conditions of employment.

After additional discussion, Mr. Patenaude will review the draft, resubmit and go to public hearing.

There were no applications for review.

Per §42-46-4 and §42-46-5(a)(4), Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session to discuss issues regarding Rhode Island wastewater treatment operators related to possible civil or criminal misconduct. Mr. Shock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers, Ms Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to resume the meeting into open session. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers, Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the May 1, 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers, Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

New business was an update on exam applications for the May exams.

With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schock. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM office located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI.